

60,130-1890; 00MRA0574

REMARKS

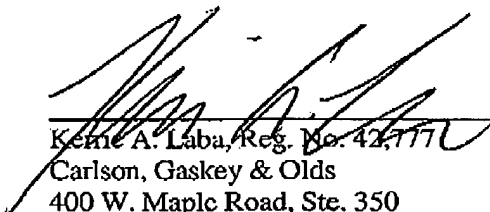
Claims 15-33 remain in the application including independent claims 15 and 26. Claims 1-14 have been cancelled by preliminary amendment.

The examiner has issued a restriction requirement asserting that claims 15-25 (Group I), drawn to a transfer case, are a distinct invention from claims 26-33 (Group II), drawn to a method of coupling a transfer case. Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement.

The examiner argues that the two groups of claims are distinct because the invention covered by the Group I claims can be used in a different process than the invention covered by the Group II claims. Specifically, the examiner argues that the Group I claims do not require sensing wheel slippage while the Group II claims do. The step of "sensing wheel slippage" has been deleted from claim 26. Applicant asserts that the examiner's reasons for asserting the restriction requirement are moot in light of the amendment made to claim 26. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests examination of all claims.

If the examiner continues to assert the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I, claims 15-25 with traverse. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,



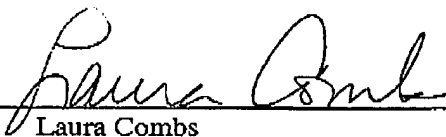
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Dated: June 3, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on June 3, 2004.



Laura Combs